

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body;

image forming means at least partly implemented by a replaceable part, which is removably mounted to said apparatus body;

counting means for counting prints sequentially output with the replaceable part;

storing means and first writable and readable nonvolatile storing means built in said apparatus body;

second writable and readable nonvolatile storing means built in the replaceable part;

and

a controller configured to store a limit number of prints particular to the replaceable part in said first nonvolatile storing means, ~~storing to store~~, after an image forming operation, a cumulative number of prints printed by said replaceable part in said first nonvolatile storing means at least until the replaceable part is replaced with a different replaceable part and in said second nonvolatile storing means, and ~~reporting to report~~ a time for replacing said replaceable part when said cumulative number stored in said first nonvolatile storing means exceeds said limit number of prints stored in said first nonvolatile storing means,

wherein the controller is configured to determine an image forming condition setting and to increment a cumulative number stored in memory in the apparatus body by a number other than one for each of the prints sequentially output with the replaceable part while the image forming condition setting is set to a first of at least two available image forming condition settings.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said stores ID (identification) information of an individual replaceable part in said second nonvolatile storing means, transfers said ID information to said storing means when said replaceable part is used, reads said ID information out of said second nonvolatile storing means when said replaceable part is mounted to said apparatus body, and updates, if said ID information is not identical with ID information particular to a previous replaceable part stored in said storing means, contents of said storing means with the number of prints and said ID information stored in said second nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 3 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising means for allowing the limit number of prints to be variably written to said first nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on image density.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 7 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising means for allowing the limit number of prints to be variably written to said first nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controller stores ID (identification) information of an individual replaceable part in said second nonvolatile storing means, transfers said ID information to said first nonvolatile storing means when said replaceable part is used, reads said ID information out of said second nonvolatile storing means when said replaceable part is mounted to said apparatus body, and updates, if said ID information is not identical with ID information particular to a previous replaceable part stored in said first nonvolatile storing means, contents of said first nonvolatile storing means with said ID information stored in said second nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 11 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising means for allowing the limit number of prints to be variably written to said first nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on image density.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on image density.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 18 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for allowing the limit number of prints to be variably written to said first nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on image density.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on image density.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

- an apparatus body;
- image forming means at least partly implemented by a replaceable part, which is removably mounted to said apparatus body;
- counting means for counting prints output with the replaceable part;
- first writable and readable nonvolatile storing means built in said apparatus body;
- second writable and readable nonvolatile storing means built in the replaceable part;

and

- a controller configured to store a limit number of prints particular to the replaceable part in said first nonvolatile storing means, ~~storing to store~~, after an image forming operation, a cumulative number of prints printed by said replaceable part in said first nonvolatile storing means at least until the replaceable part is replaced with a different replaceable part and in

said second nonvolatile storing means, and ~~reporting to report~~ a time for replacing said replaceable part when said cumulative number stored in said first nonvolatile storing means exceeds said limit number of prints stored in said second nonvolatile storing means,

wherein the controller is configured to determine an image forming condition setting and to increment a cumulative number stored in memory in the apparatus body by a number other than one for each of the prints sequentially output with the replaceable part while the image forming condition setting is set to a first of at least two available image forming condition settings.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said controller stores ID information of an individual replaceable part in said second nonvolatile storing means, transfers said ID information to said first nonvolatile storing means when said replaceable part is used, reads said ID information out of said second nonvolatile storing means when said replaceable part is mounted to said apparatus body, and updates, if said ID information is not identical with ID information particular to a previous replaceable part stored in said first nonvolatile storing means, contents of said first nonvolatile storing means with the number of prints and said ID information stored in said second nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 27 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, further comprising means for allowing the limit number of prints to be variably written to said first nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on image density.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on image density.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 34 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further comprising means for allowing the limit number of prints to be variably written to said first nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 35 (Canceled).

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on image density.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 38 (Canceled).

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on image density.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein the image forming condition setting is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): In an IC (Integrated Circuit) chip to be connected to a CPU (Central Processing Unit) built in an apparatus body of an image forming apparatus when removably mounted to said apparatus body, and including nonvolatile storing means allowing data to be written therein or read thereout of under control of said CPU, said nonvolatile storing means stores ID information particular to said IC chip and a cumulative number of prints output by said apparatus body with said IC chip,

the ID information and the cumulative number of prints are read out of said storing means and transferred to said apparatus body when said IC chip is mounted to said apparatus body, and

after management information including the cumulative number of prints have been processed, an existing cumulative number of prints stored within the apparatus body at least



until the IC chip is removed and replaced with a different IC chip is updated by the cumulative number of prints transferred from said IC chip,

wherein the CPU is configured to determine an image forming condition setting and to increment the cumulative number of prints stored in memory in said apparatus body by a number other than one for each print sequentially output while the image forming condition setting is set to a first of at least two available image forming condition settings.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): In a replaceable part included in image forming means of an image forming apparatus, an IC chip is built in said replaceable part and connected to a CPU built in an apparatus body of said image forming apparatus when removably mounted to said apparatus body, and including nonvolatile storing means allowing data to be written therein or read thereout of under control of said CPU, said nonvolatile storing means stores ID information particular to said replaceable part and a cumulative number of prints output by said apparatus body with said IC chip,

the ID information and the cumulative number of prints are read out of said storing means and transferred to said apparatus body and stored in the apparatus body when said IC chip is mounted to said apparatus body at least until the replaceable part is replaced with a different replaceable part, and

after a cumulative number of prints output by said image forming apparatus with said replaceable part has been determined and after a time for replacing said replaceable part has been determined on the basis of said cumulative number of prints stored in said apparatus body, an existing cumulative number of prints stored in said storing means is updated by the cumulative number of prints transferred to said replaceable part from said apparatus body,

wherein the CPU is configured to determine an image forming condition setting and to increment the cumulative number of prints stored in memory in said apparatus body by a

number other than one for each of the prints sequentially output by said image forming apparatus with said replaceable part while the image forming condition setting is set to a first of at least two available image forming condition settings.